

D A I L Y P R E S S B U L L E T I N

No. 16

Tel-Aviv, 3rd August, 1948

1)) BLACK AND RED MARKET.

("Mivrak")

It is an established custom of the diplomacy to make exaggerated demands in order to have an ample margin for subsequent haggling over the price and concessions. It is also an established and time-honoured practice among powers to make demands in one corner of the world in order to counter-balance somebody else's in another. The game is usually played by aggressive and victorious nations when it comes to the division of spoils of war. The young State of Israel, that has not yet mastered the intricacies of politics, is now trying to walk this tight rope in the diplomatic fair.

For example, whenever a British delegate raises the question of the five arrested British spies, an Israeli representative parries, with an almost automatic alacrity, with the problem of the Cyprus detainees, as if there were any moral or legal connection or resemblance between the two cases,

So far as the spies are concerned, we hope, notwithstanding the ludicrous linking of their case with that of the Cyprus refugees, that they will be given a fair trial, unaffected by any diplomatic considerations. As to the refugees detained by the British, we are very much afraid (we wish to God, we were wrong) that in all probability Bernadotte will soon propose their release in return for the repatriation of half a million (if the number is not doubled in the meantime by the magic of British statistics) displaced Arabs. Israeli spokesmen rightly claim that the detention of Jews in Cyprus is a violation of the truce, but why use acrimonious definitions if there is no intention to draw proper conclusions? How is the Government of Israel going to react to this violation?

This bargaining with the fate of the Cyprus refugees is closely connected with the barter of Jerusalem. Mr. Shertok has made it clear that if Bernadotte does not withdraw his proposal

of turning Jerusalem over to the Arabs, then the Jews will demand its inclusion in the State of Israel, or, in Shertok's own over-cautious pseudo-diplomatic language, there is "the possibility of reverting to our original claims for the inclusion of Jewish Jerusalem within the Jewish State". The main argument in favour of this "possibility" is that the Christian world has not shown sufficient interest in the fate of Jerusalem and the U.N.O. made no attempt to take over the administration of the city.

The argument is neither convincing nor serious. The Christian world will certainly be puzzled - what is the complain about?

Are we not, in fact, deeply indebted to the Christendom for its lack of interest and to the U.N.O. for its inaction? Just imagine what an impossible situation would have developed if Mr. Joseph's proposal to bring in Norwegian troops for the purpose of establishing international administration in Jerusalem had been accepted and acted upon. What would have happened if the Christendom and the U. N. had been less lethargic? Jerusalem would have been lost and the Jewish strip from Hulda to it wiped out. Histadruth parties in Jerusalem would have had then no chance to raise an outcry against the I.Z.L.'s alleged trespass on their domain.

Blessed be, indeed, those Gentiles: Arabs - for what they did do, Christians - for what they did not do.

However, in the light of Shertok's letter, it is obvious that all the noise made around Jerusalem and its "military occupation" is nothing but a manoeuvre calculated to induce the U. N. to internationalize the city. This is the underlying cause of Mr. Joseph's appointment to the military governorship in the face of a strong opposition from the population. Preparations are under way to present Jerusalem to Bernadotte, a gift saturated with the blood of Jewish fighters from Etzion Block to the Latrun front.

It is good that there are still some people who will tolerate neither sacrilege nor profiteering in blood.

++++++

2) RADIO BROADCAST.

The Foreign Minister, Mr. Shertok, made yesterday a very vague and elusive answer when pressed at the press conference to define the Government's stand on the Jerusalem question. He merely said that door was left open to re-assert our claim on Jerusalem. But an open door makes two alternatives possible - that of going forward and that of going backwards. Shertok's diplomatic language makes us no wiser in this connection and

leaves Jerusalem still an "occupied territory", on the same level with Jaffa and Nazareth.

Jerusalemites murmur, there are protests from every corner of the country; the official circles feeling that something is wrong decide to act in accordance with the maxim that attack is the best form of defence (maxim applied by the Government of Israel to internal affairs only), so "Davar" has again to make attacks on dissidents, using, for lack of better ammunition, ~~the same worn-out~~ ~~lies~~ over and over again. Well, if the head of the government himself is not ashamed to say publicly that Romema, Lifta, Sheikh-Bader and other suburbs and villages west of Jerusalem were captured by the forces of Haganah, why should not "Davar" enjoy the same privilege and use the same lies? After all does it make really any practical difference that those areas were captured by the Fighters for Freedom - contrary to the orders of the Haganah command in Jerusalem?

In the meantime the sniping activity in Jerusalem is on the increase. Glubb Pasha is daily claiming new victims in the Jewish capital and there is no sign that the crime will be put an end to. Since Mr. Joseph has become Military Governor there has been no sharp reaction to the Arab violations of the truce, such as attacks on Arab positions near Latrun or on the Bethlehem Road. The reason previously given in excuse of our conciliatory attitude - our military weakness - has ceased to exist and it may be asked: is it really impossible to put an end to the violations of the truce by occupying the Old City? Or, to put it differently, should not we ~~take~~ ~~advantage~~ of the Arab contraventions in order to evict the Arab Legion from Jerusalem?